Claims 1-35. (cancelled)

Claim 36. (original) A method for screening a plurality of compounds so as to identify compounds exhibiting antidepressant activity, comprising:

a) determining *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each compound using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

b) determining *in vitro* efficacy values for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or an α_5 subunit; and

c) identifying as having antidepressant activity a compound having an EC_{50} value determined in a) of less than 200nM and an efficacy value determined in a) of greater than the efficacy value determined in b).

Claim 37. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the EC_{50} value determined using said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor is less than 150 nM.

Claim 38. (original) The method of Claim 37 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 39. (original) The method of Claim 37 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor is greater than 30%.

Claim 40. (original) The method of Claim 39 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit or said α_5 subunit is less than 20%.

Claim 41. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 42. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor is greater than 30%.

Claim 43. (original) The method of Claim 42 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit or said α_5 subunit is less than 20%.

Claim 44. (original) The method of Claim 36 wherein the $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit is an $\alpha_1\beta_2\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$

subtype receptor or the $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_5 subunit is an $\alpha_5\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor.

Claim 45. (original) A method for screening compounds for antidepressant activity, comprising:

a) selecting compounds having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_A$ receptor;

b) determining *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for the selected compounds using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

c) determining *in vitro* efficacy for the selected compounds using a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or an α_5 subunit; and

d) identifying as having antidepressant activity a compound having an EC_{50} as determined in b) of less than 200nM and an efficacy value as determined in b) greater than the efficacy value determined in c).

Claim 46. (original) A method for screening compounds for antidepressant activity, comprising:

a) determining *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each compound using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

b) determining *in vitro* efficacy values for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or an α_5 subunit;

c) determining *in vivo* effect of said compound in an animal model indicative of antidepressant activity;

d) determining the *in vivo* effect of said compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and

e) identifying as an antidepressant a compound that produces an EC_{50} value as determined in a) of less than 200nM, and an efficacy value as determined in b) greater than the efficacy value from c), and (i) produces a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) positive effect in the animal model indicative of antidepressant activity and (ii) does not produce a statistically significant effect in the animal model indicative of sedative effects.

Claim 47. (original) A method for screening compounds for antidepressant activity, comprising:

a) selecting test compounds having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_A$ receptor;

b) determining *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} value for each test compound using an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

c) determining *in vitro* efficacy value for each test compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 subunit or an α_5 subunit;

d) determining the *in vivo* effect of each test compound in an animal model indicative of antidepressant activity;

e) determining the *in vivo* effect of each test compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and

f) identifying as an antidepressant a compound that produces: an EC_{50} value as determined in b) of less than 200nM, an efficacy value as determined in c) greater than the efficacy value from d), and (i) produces a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) positive effect in the animal model indicative of antidepressant activity and (ii) does not produce a statistically significant effect in the animal model indicative of sedative effects.

Claims 48-50. (cancelled)